

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2019

Esther Dunlop named 2019 LEA Outstanding New Lutheran Elementary Teacher

Esther Dunlop was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2019 Outstanding New Lutheran Elementary Teacher Award. She is in her third year of teaching at Immanuel Lutheran School in St. Louis, Mo. Among responsibilities in addition to teaching grades 3–5, Esther is the robotics coach/STEM representative, track coach, science fair organizer, and baptismal remembrance organizer.

Ms. Dunlop earned both a B.A. and an M.Ed in education from Maryville University, St. Louis, Mo. She also earned a Lutheran teacher Colloquy through Concordia University, Nebraska.

One parent, in support of Esther's nomination, said, "Beyond her skill and ingenuity in the classroom, Esther is a vibrant presence of Christ in our church and school. She shines as an example to her students and the young women of our congregation of fearless, joy-filled faith. She has a passion for good theology. She sees how the intricacies of doctrine matter in her teaching, whether it is in her classroom or our youth group. She is unapologetically Lutheran, and joyfully invites you to find out why. She speaks with confidence about her Lord and Savior and all He has done for her and for His people. She invests in relationships by joining in congregational activities, participating in Bible studies, and serving in our music ministry. Her deep and abiding joy found in Jesus draws others to her. She takes those opportunities to speak of the hope and peace and comfort and strength that come from God."

Esther's principal commented, "Esther chooses learning activities that embrace her students' wide range of abilities and learning styles. Her students are eager to get into the classroom and stay as long as they can. Students know they are valued in her classroom. In addition to connecting in our school community, Esther is a co-sponsor of a Robotics club with our Chinese mission church and our school. She is a youth leader in our church. She also teaches a summer camp through local Maryville University where she is able to positively impact children in the St. Louis area."

Commenting on her greatest joys in ministry, Esther said, "My single greatest joy has been to witness students get baptized. It's fulfilling to be a first-hand witness of the Holy Spirit's work as students develop Christ's boldness, as shown when they beg their parents to let them get baptized or come to church. I love nurturing the children of God as they develop confidence in Him and in their learning. In addition, I feel fulfilled when students embrace the "growth mindset" as they persevere, and then teach their parents what they learned, and lastly, when I can teach the parents how to help their children continue to develop skills."

###

Edward Grube
Director of Publications and Communications
Lutheran Education Association
7400 Augusta Street
River Forest, IL 60305
708.209.3453 Fax 708.209.3458
www.lea.org ed.grube@lea.org lea@lea.org